

## **MINUTES**

### **MONTANA SENATE 60th LEGISLATURE - REGULAR SESSION**

#### **COMMITTEE ON FISH AND GAME**

**Call to Order:** By **CHAIRMAN JOSEPH (JOE) TROPILA**, on March 15, 2007 at 3:00 P.M., in Room 422 Capitol.

#### **ROLL CALL**

##### **Members Present:**

Sen. Joseph (Joe) Tropila, Chairman (D)  
Sen. Gregory D. Barkus (R)  
Sen. Keith Bales (R)  
Sen. Joe Balyeat (R)  
Sen. Steven Gallus (D)  
Sen. Ken (Kim) Hansen (D)  
Sen. Larry Jent (D)  
Sen. Lane L. Larson (D)  
Sen. Bill Tash (R)

##### **Members Excused:**

**Members Absent:** None.

**Staff Present:** Claudia Johnson, Committee Secretary  
Joe Kolman, Legislative Branch

**Audio Committees:** These minutes are in outline form only. They provide a list of participants and a record of official action taken by the committee. The link to the audio recording of the meeting is available on the Legislative Branch website.

##### **Committee Business Summary:**

Hearing & Date Posted: HB 759, 3/9/2007; HB 717, 3/9/2007;  
HB 613, 3/9/2007  
Executive Action: None.

00:14:28 Chairman Tropila

**HEARING ON HB 759**

**Opening Statement by Sponsor:**

00:15:11 **REP. GORDON HENDRICK (R), HD 14**, opened the hearing on  
**HB 759**, Revise fee system funding search & rescue.

**EXHIBIT(fis55a01)**

**Proponents:**

00:19:54 Mike Byrnes, Mineral County Search and Rescue

00:23:33 Michael Bedick, Chair for Sanders County Search and  
Rescue

00:24:25 Terry Posio, Sanders County Search and Rescue

00:24:43 Sheryl Wood, Associate Director for Montana  
Association of Counties

00:25:23 Rep. Jim Elliott

**Opponents:**

00:26:02 Jim Smith, Montana Sheriff's and Peace Officer's  
Association

**Informational Testimony:**

00:31:23 Dan McGowan, Administrator, Montana Disaster and  
Emergency Services, Department of Military Affairs  
(DMA)

**Questions from Committee Members and Responses:**

00:33:37 Sen. Tash to Dan McGowan, DMA

00:36:20 Sen. Tash to Mike Byrnes, Mineral County Search and  
Rescue

00:37:35 Sen. Bales to Dan McGowan, DMA

00:40:06 Sen. Barkus to Dan McGowan, DMA

00:42:31 Sen. Barkus to Chris Smith, Chief of Staff, Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks (FWP)

00:44:03 Sen. Bales to Mike Byrnes, Sanders County Search and Rescue

00:45:53 Sen. Hansen to Mike Byrnes, Sanders County Search and Rescue

00:49:13 Sen. Tropila to Dan McGowan, DMA

00:50:07 Sen. Bales to Jim Smith, Montana Sheriff's and Peach Officer's Association

**Closing by Sponsor:**

00:51:59 Rep. Hendrick

**HEARING ON HB 717**

**Opening Statement by Sponsor:**

01:00:05 **REP. WAYNE STAHL (R), HD 35**, opened the hearing on **HB 717**, Ratify Bowdoin wildlife refuge water compact.

**Proponents:**

01:01:45 Chris Tweeten, Chairman, Montana Reserved Water Rights Compact Commission

**EXHIBIT(fis55a02)**

01:05:24 Jay Weiner, Staff Attorney, Montana Reserved Water Rights Compact Commission

01:11:17 Carmen Luna, Manager, Bowdoin Wildlife Refuge

**EXHIBIT(fis55a03)**

01:19:37 Candace West, Attorney General's Office, Department of Justice (DOJ)

**Opponents:** None.

**Informational Testimony:** None.

**Questions from Committee Members and Responses:**

01:22:00 Sen. Tropila to Rep. Stahl

01:22:25 Sen. Barkus to Rep. Stahl

01:23:16 Sen. Barkus to Jay Weiner, Montana Reserved Water  
Rights Compact Commission

**Closing by Sponsor:**

01:25:00 Rep. Stahl

**HEARING ON HB 613**

**Opening Statement by Sponsor:**

01:25:22 REP. BOB BERGREN (D), HD 33, opened the hearing on HB  
613, Reduce legal age for hunting/limited license  
privileges for youths age 9 to 11.

**EXHIBIT(fis55a04)**

**Proponents:**

01:29:03 Rep. Carol Lambert

01:30:31 Chris Smith, Chief of Staff, FWP

**EXHIBIT(fis55a05)**

01:34:54 Larry Sickerson, Hunter Education Teacher

01:36:39 Fred Easy, Self

**EXHIBIT(fis55a06)**

01:27:69 Anthony Bodner, Self

01:38:54 Jean Johnson, Montana Outfitters and Guides Association

**Opponents:**

01:39:46 Roger Lloyd, Hunter Education Teacher

01:42:33 Bill Tiddy, Hunter Education Teacher

01:45:34 Robert Throssell, Montana Wildlife Federation

01:46:29 Betty Tiddy, Self

**EXHIBIT(fis55a07)**

01:47:32 Bill Covey, Hunter Education Teacher

01:51:15 Arthur Habel, Hunter Education Teacher

01:53:15 Michael Sherrard, Hunter Education Teacher

**EXHIBIT(fis55a08)**

01:58:35 Roger Chevalier, Self

**Informational Testimony:** None.

**Questions from Committee Members and Responses:**

01:59:24 Sen. Jent to Chris Smith, FWP

02:01:40 Sen. Balyeat to Chris Smith, FWP

02:05:14 Sen. Balyeat to Rep. Bergren

02:05:29 Sen. Balyeat to Bill Tiddy, Hunter Education Teacher

02:10:07 Sen. Barkus to Rep. Bergren

02:13:40 Sen. Barkus to Chris Smith, FWP

02:15:47 Sen. Balyeat to Fred Easy

02:16:49 Sen. Tropila

**Closing by Sponsor:**

02:17:14 Rep. Bergren

**EXHIBIT(fis55a09)**

02:21:34 Chairman Tropila

**ADJOURNMENT**

Adjournment: 5:10 P.M.

---

SEN. JOSEPH (JOE) TROPILA, Chairman

---

CLAUDIA JOHNSON, Secretary

JT/cj

Additional Exhibits:

**EXHIBIT ([fis55aad.pdf](#))**